

2.90 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

RECALLING that the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution was approved in 1976 in Barcelona (and known for short as the Barcelona Convention) and amended considerably in 1995, in particular to extend its coverage from the marine environment to coastal areas and that the name of the treaty has been amended (subject to ratification) to become the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;

NOTING that six implementation Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, which are fundamental for the protection and conservation of the Mediterranean marine environment and coastal areas, were significantly modified in 1995 and that similar new Protocols have been signed but not yet ratified;

CONSIDERING that as of 5 June 2000 the amendments to the Barcelona Convention had been ratified by only nine of the 15 States necessary for the amendments to enter into force;

RECOGNIZING that the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA Protocol) obtained the minimum number of ratifications in December 1999;

FURTHER RECALLING that NGOs in the Mediterranean region, meeting in Barcelona in November 1998, during the 5th Mediterranean Environmental Forum organized by MED Forum – the Mediterranean NGO Network for Ecology and Sustainable Development – requested the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, including the European Union, to ratify the Convention and its Protocols before October 1999, which was the date of the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Malta; and

NOTING that, in light of the non-ratification of the Convention and its Protocols, Mediterranean NGOs, meeting in Malta in October 1999, requested that the required minimum number of ratifications be achieved by June 2000, but at the time of drafting this Recommendation, only the SPA Protocol had obtained the minimum number of ratifications for entry into force;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

REQUESTS the Director General to urge the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, to accept immediately the 1995 amendments to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and to ratify both the earlier and new Protocols to the Convention, in order that they may enter into force and facilitate more effective implementation of agreed measures for protection of the Mediterranean.

This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Recommendation as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).